

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This application has been carefully considered in light of the Non-Final Office Action of January 25, 2010.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 7, and 10-12 remain in the application. No amendments are currently being made to the claims of the application.

The Examiner is including a request for correction of the abstract of the application due to excess size. A new abstract which conforms to current US Patent Office practices is included with this response.

**The Examiner is rejecting claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Droese (US Patent 6,612,204) stating Droese contains all of the elements of the applicant's claimed invention.**

Droese discloses a method of fabricating a blade for a knife in which a laser treatment is performed on a piece (1), (figures 1-3) to define a curve contour (2) which corresponds to the ultimate cutting edge. The process of producing this curve contour creates a concave area (Figs 4-7). There is not, as in the applicant's claimed invention, powder projection and melting with the help of a laser onto a free edge of the blade so as to

form a bead or strip, but rather a projection of material onto a curved contour in a concave shape with the cutting of the blade edge from the piece (1) after projection of material.

In Droese, the additive material is added to the base material after melting of the base material according to the excerpt taken from column 2, lines 25-28.

"... The material modification takes place at a temperature above the melt-fluid phase of the substrate material, the upper limit value for the heating of the material being given by the evaporation temperature. After the melting of the base material, additive materials are added into the melt-fluid phase and mixed with it for targeted modification of the material..."

This is unlike the applicant's claimed invention wherein step c calls for "...subjecting the make-up material powder to a laser beam at the same time as projecting the make-up material powder so as to form a bead or strip on at least a portion of one of the at least three free edges..."

It is respectfully stated that in light of the differences as outlined in the argument above Droese does not anticipate the applicant's claimed invention. Therefore, removal of the rejection is requested.

An earnest effort has been made to place this application in

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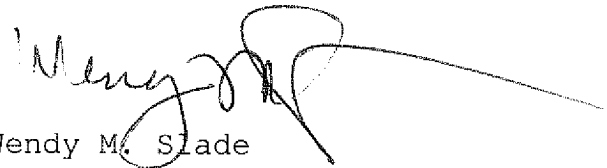
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condition for formal allowance, which action is requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the allowability of the claims, it is requested that an interview be granted with applicant's representative prior to taking any action that may be considered as final. Any fees necessitated by the filing of this response may be charged to Deposit Account 04-1577.

Respectively Submitted;

Dowell & Dowell, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wendy M. Slade", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Wendy M. Slade

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